FEBRUARY

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

FEBRUARY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 7, 8:15 p.m.
Place: Morrison Auditorium
Speaker: Robert C. Hermes
Subject: "ANIMALS AT HOME AND AFIELD"

Mr. Hermes has a reputation for being armed with his camera at the proper place and at the proper time, such as being on hand when a score of baby octopi see the first watery light of day in an ocean lagoon; when an ant lion builds a sand trap for an unsuspecting wasp; and when a praying mantis decides her mate is better as a dinner than as a spouse.

As lecturer in this fourth of the current series of Audubon Screen Tours, Mr. Hermes will present an all-color motion picture of the lives and private worlds of many of the remarkable creatures that share this planet with mankind.

ACADEMY HOST: Mr. George Bunton and the Department of Astronomy.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"THE MOONS OF MARS" continues through February 12.

"STORIES OF THE STARS" begins February 14, extends through April 2, and occupies itself with a myriad of fantastic tales and legends surrounding our starry neighbors. A knowledge of both fancy and fact found in the heavens only makes them more fascinating. Performances daily, Tuesday through Sunday, at 3:30 and 8:30 p.m., with extra matinees at 2:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. No performances on Tuesday evenings. (Adults, 75¢, Juniors, 40¢)

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

"SEAWEED", an exhibit of 40 specimens of marine algae collected by Mrs. G. A. Hall, continues in the Alice Eastwood Hall of Botany. (Admission free)

"SCIENCE IN ACTION"

Monday nights, 7:00 p.m., KRON-TV, Channel 4

Feb. 6: "The New Anti-Biotics", with Guest Scientist, Dr. Frederick Fink, Chas. Pfizer & Co.

Feb. 13: "The Echo Satellite", with William Jakes, Bell Telephone Laboratories.

Feb. 20: "Guarding Your Health", with Dr. J. C. Geiger.

Feb. 27: "Keeping Children Safe", with Robert Alway, M.D., Dean of Stanford University School of Medicine.

NEWS and NOTES . . . . . .

By unanimous agreement, the Committee for Research and Exploration of the National Geographic Society has made a Research Grant in the amount of $6,000 to Dr. Edward S. Ross, Curator of the Department of Entomology. This sum represents partial support of Dr. Ross' forthcoming California Academy of Sciences-National Geographic Society entomological expedition to tropical Asia, scheduled to begin with the next six months.

Dr. Ross' major interest in a little-known insect order, Embioptera, or web-spinners, has previously taken him to many equatorial regions of the world. A collection of these insects from tropical Asia, one of the few regions he has not yet surveyed, is a vital requirement for developing a world classification of these strange insects.

Mr. J. Alan Tubb, Regional Fish Officer for the FAO in southeast Asia, with headquarters in Bangkok, has presented Steinhart Aquarium with the largest specimen in captivity of an Elephant Trunk Snake. This oddly fleshy snake, mottled brown and somewhat less than prepossessing, weighs 19 pounds and is over 7-1/2 feet long. It is now on display in the Indoor Swamp area at the Academy.

Planning for the spring series of "Science in Action" programs took Executive Producer Benjamin Draper to southern California in January where he visited the General Dynamics Corporation Research Laboratories, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the San Diego Zoo, the Associated Colleges of Claremont, California, and to the Huntington Library of which he has been a Reader since 1940.

The Department of Astronomy wishes to announce its second annual 13-week course in Celestial Navigation for the beginner to be held on Tuesday evenings, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Starting February 21 and extending through May 16, the meetings are scheduled to be held in the Planetarium Theatre and the fee for the entire course is $15.00.

Registration will be at the first three meetings. For further information, telephone the Department at Bayview 1-5100.

The California State Marine Research Committee, vested with the study of California sardines and the study and development of other marine resources, held an all-day meeting at the Academy on January 5.

Dr. Robert C. Miller, Director of the Academy, Dr. Ira Wiggins, Director of the Stanford Museum of Natural History, and Dr. A. Myra Keen, Curator of Paleontological Collections at Stanford University, participated in an expedition to Baja California in December. The expedition was made possible by a grant from the Belvedere Scientific Fund.

Headquarters were established on a bay on Espiritu Santo Island. Shore collecting was carried on during the excellent low tides of mid-December, and successful dredging operations were carried out from a boat chartered in La Paz and especially equipped for the purpose.

Professors Antonio Garcia Cubas and Alejandro Villelobos Figueroa of the Institute of Biology of the National University of Mexico also participated in the expedition.

A noteworthy collection of marine shells from Easter Island has been presented to the Academy by Mrs. K. Steele of Sacramento. The collection was made by Padre Sebastian Englert in 1955.

Stargazers are reminded that a new television series has begun on Station KQED, Channel 9, Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., entitled "Moons, Planets and Stars". The programs are aimed at informing the lay public about fundamental astronomy but will also keep the viewer aware of current changes happening in the winter and spring sky.

Host for the programs is Dr. Carlos Mundt, Professor Emeritus of San Francisco State College, and formerly with Lick Observatory. This series, being telecast on San Francisco's nationally-acclaimed educational channel, is presented in cooperation with the May Treat Morrison Trust Estate.

(More NEWS AND NOTES on reverse)

Meet the Staff

DONALD A. SIMPSON, when only six years old, was given a green glass battery jar through which a trio of gold fish could be seen darkly, and thus began an interest in fish which has not lessened during the six intervening decades.

Born in New York, Don served in World War I with the famous "Fighting 69th", was wounded and subsequently discharged with the rank of 1st Sergeant. In the early 20's, he emigrated to southern California and in 1926 moved to San Francisco which has since been his home. Until 1940, he was employed as a credit manager with a firm on Montgomery Street, but the urge to be just more than a hobbyist with fish propelled him into Steinhart Aquarium in August, 1941, and an interview with Superintendent Alvin Seale. For one year, he was the Aquarium Collector, but with World War II occupying everyone's thoughts, once again Don found himself in a Recruiting Office and later in the Transportation Corps at Fort Mason. His Army travels took him, as Master Sergeant, to India, Australia, New Zealand, Panama and the Caribbean.

In January of 1945 he returned to his job as Collector for Steinhart Aquarium, and in 1952 he assumed the many duties of the Tropical Fish Room (where he is seen in the above photo.) At present he is Assistant Curator of Aquatic Biology and of Steinhart Aquarium.

An indefatigable writer, he has published one book, "The Home Marine Aquarium", some 90 articles in the AQUARIUM JOURNAL, and others in CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME. More writing as well as oil painting take up his spare time. He and Mrs. Simpson enjoy a pleasantly quiet San Francisco existence.

news and notes (continued)

The California Botanical Club has presented the Department of Botany with 342 topographic maps of the U.S. Geological Survey as they pertain to California. There are approximately 2,000 such maps in the total series covering California. The Club anticipates completing the entire set for the Department in the future.

Miscellanea: Dr. Earle G. Linsley of the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, was a recent visitor to the Academy . . . The Instrument Shop will construct and install a Foucault pendulum in the Museum of History and Technology at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. . . . Progress report: Three months have elapsed since the rehabilitation of Steinhart Aquarium was begun and work continues at an accelerated rate. Construction has now started on the 100,000 gallon salt water reservoir . . . To the group of magazines listed in the January NEWSLETTER as being ones which could be used effectively in the Academy's Department of Exhibits, the following should be added: American Home, House and Garden, House Beautiful, Mechanix Illustrated and Popular Science. For their pickup or delivery, please call the Department of Exhibits at BAyview 1-5100.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Stephen M. Allen
Dr. Lyman Benson
Mrs. B. M. Brooks
Miss Nina Eloesser
Dr. Lawrence W. Larson
Miss Rosabelle Scott
Dr. William H. Thomas

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Dr. Donald A. Dallas
Dr. George Desalernos
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STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

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